



# Western Sheep & Beef Producers

## Bulletin – 11 June 2015

### INDUSTRY FUNDING SCHEMES – JUNE IS THE ONLY TIME TO OPT OUT

Should you wish to do so, now is the only time farmers are able to 'opt out' of paying contributions to the cattle and sheep & goats Industry Funding Schemes (IFS).

The PGA recognizes it is each farmer's decision to 'opt-out' of the schemes because producers who decide to do so lose all entitlements to assistance and compensation via the Scheme.

The PGA is fearful that should a farmer opt out of any scheme, because the current focus of the scheme is not of concern to them, and should a new and novel biosecurity threat be identified, that threat may become a specified pest under the scheme, and that farmer will now face the full and unexpected consequences of such a change in the position of the IFS.

The PGA sees the only solution to this problem is giving each grower the ability to nominate, within reasonable boundaries, how they wish their contribution to be spent, in combination with the contributions of those with like minds.

The relevant information and forms can be found at <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/bam/opting-outsearching> Industry Funding Scheme WA

### WOOLPOLL

Livestock Committee member Mrs Bindi Murray attended the first WoolPoll panel meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. She gives the following report;

There was a lengthy discussion on AWI's income, reserves, expenditure and the marketing to R&D ratio.

AWI maintains that the split is a board decision not a woolgrower decision as one must be privy to the financials to make an informed decision.

The panel gave a strong message that AWI needs to put a business case for levy payers to invest a percentage of their gross income in AWI, and that it needs to deliver hard numbers such as the cost benefit analyses. This would give levy payers an idea of what a vote at each bracket will deliver in terms of income and expenditure. It was also suggested that information on voter turnout and finances should be given to SFOs in advance of the first meeting to allow an informed discussion on proposed levy rates and communication strategies, as are required to be presented by WoolPoll members at the first meeting.

There was general discussion regarding current Senate inquiries and the government / political environment relevant to WoolPoll and an explanation of discussions to change the frequency of WoolPoll to 5 years as per Dairy. There was a lot of conversation about the current political mood and fiscal situation at a federal level and the level of pressure that may be applied to the matching government funds for R&D.

The AWI Review of Performance is being finalised and will be presented to the panel in due course.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Combined Livestock/Pastoral Committees meeting June 24

The Livestock Committee will be discussing BJD and ear marking. Members who have a special interest are welcome to attend.

Executive Committee June 25      Western Grain Growers June 26      PGA Convention July 29

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